

YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Dr. G. E. David)
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
(W. Emlyn Jones)

FOR

1946

YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL
R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Dr. G. E. David)
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
(W. Emlyn Jones)

FOR
1946

The Medical Officer's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1946.

Immunisation has by now become popular with mothers, but unfortunately the same cannot be said for vaccination. Mothers seem to have the idea that immunisation is a protection against both Diphtheria and Small Pox, and at a period when the latter is continually being introduced into the country from the Far East by serving men, this fallacy must be considered dangerous. In a recent epidemic in Middlesex, introduced by a demobilised soldier, it was recorded that of 20 odd victims of the outbreak, the only death was that of an unvaccinated person.

Much still remains to be done to ease the housing problem, but the allocating of fifty Temporary Bungalows during the year abated twenty-one cases of legal overcrowding in addition to housing a number of families who were in dire need of re-housing.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

G. E. DAVID

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District consists of two Parishes, Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower, their respective areas being 13,182 and 9,016 acres, a total of 22,198 acres.

Population.—11,698.—Ministry of Food returns for 1946.

Industries.—Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, quarrying and agriculture. Other industrial ventures are in the offing.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.—

(a) Live Births:

Total	.....	211—201 legitimate;	10 illegitimate
Males	.....	103— 98 legitimate;	5 illegitimate
Females	... 108—103 legitimate;	5 illegitimate	

(b) Still Births: Males 5; Females 2.

Deaths.—Total 124.—Males 62; Females 62.

Causes of Death:	Males	Females
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	1
Tuberculosis: other forms	1	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	1
Influenza	2	—
Acute Polio Myel.	—	1
Cancer of Uterus	—	1
Cancer of Stomach	2	—
Cancer of Breast	—	3
Cancer: Other Sites	5	3
Diabetes	1	1
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	4	4
Heart Disease	15	20
Disease of Circulatory System ...	—	2
Bronchitis	1	4
Pneumonia	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	—
Appendicitis	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2
Nephritis	3	2
Premature Birth	2	2
Con. Mal.: Birth inj.	2	1
Road Accidents	—	1
Other violent causes	3	2
Other causes	6	6
Total	62	62

Infectious Diseases.—The district received 3 cases of Typhoid from Aberystwyth during its Typhoid Epidemic. All 3 cases were immediately isolated and there was no further spread. The chief epidemics were Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough, but there were no deaths. The Glanrhyd Infants' School was closed for 12 days on account of an epidemic of Whooping Cough.

Chief Notifiable Diseases.

Policencephalitis	...	1	Whooping Cough	...	10
Measles	...	2	Typhoid	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	16	Diphtheria	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	Tuberculosis	...	13

POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF

This scheme is administered by the County Council Authorities. Area Relieving Officer is Mr. George Williams, Council Offices, Ystradgynlais; District Medical Officer, Dr. G. E. David.

The Infirmary is at Llanfaes, Brecon, whilst there are arrangements in force whereby if there is accommodation at Pontardawe Infirmary, patients from Ystradgynlais R.D.C. area are admitted there.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

General Medical.—Dr. A. F. Sladden, Beck Laboratory, General Hospital Swansea.

Water Supplies.—County Analyst, Carmarthen.

Milk.—(a) Resasurin Test: Ministry of Agriculture Area Laboratory, Brecon; (b) Tuberculin Test, Aberystwyth University Laboratories.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

(a) **Maternity.**—This is administered by the County Council. The scheme is totally inadequate and unsatisfactory. We are dependent on there being accommodation in hospitals of other Counties and it is only complicated cases they are prepared to take.

(b) **General.**—General Hospital Facilities are on the whole satisfactory and adequate. Hospitals serving the area are:

(a) Swansea General and Eye Hospital.

(b) Emergency Hospital, Morriston.

(c) West Glamorgan Hospital, Neath.

(c) **Infectious Fevers.**—We are solely dependent on the good nature of other authorities and the average cost to this Authority is £32 10s. 0d. per case. At present there is an arrangement with Pontardawe R.D.C. to take Ystradgynlais cases at a cost of £3 3s. 0d. per week, plus ambulance cost.

(d) **Tuberculosis** — Sanatorium at Craigynos is administered by the Welsh National Memorial Association, which also has the charge of the area clinics.

((e) **Mental Diseases**.—Cases cared for at the County Mental Hospital, Talgarth.

VACCINATION.

Controlled by the County Council.

Vaccination Officer: Mr. George Williams, Council Offices, Ystradgynlais.

Vaccinator (Medical): Dr. G. E. David.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Administered by a local committee.

WATER SUPPLIES

The district has seven piped supplies, one of which was completed during the current year. Five of these are chlorinated and samples are periodically taken for Bacteriological analysis.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my report for the year 1946.

The year saw a return to peace time activities in Council work, although to a great extent war time restrictions and difficulties prevailed. Yet 75 Temporary Houses were occupied during the year, a great boon to a large number of families living under abnormal conditions.

A direct Refuse Collecting Scheme was inaugurated and although it cannot be said that the scheme as it stands is sufficient, it was a step in the right direction, the benefits of which are already obvious.

The sampling of milk under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme was not only maintained but improved upon, and in addition, numerous samples of ice cream were also sent for bacteriological analysis.

The work of repairs to houses was not neglected though it was not on the scale desired, but with the gradual return to more normal times an improvement in this direction can be hoped for.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,

Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (Housing Acts and Public Health Acts)	338
Nuisances	23
Drainage	30
Infectious Diseases	42
Verminous Premises	41
Farms, Cowsheds and Dairies	18
Factories and Workshops	6
Food Premises	59
Bakehouses	5
Refuse Collection and Disposal	39
Inspections under Infestation Order	48
Miscellaneous Visits	162
Total	811

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year (Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	231
(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose ...	338
2.—Number of dwelling houses proved to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	161
3.—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (Rural Housing Survey) ...	534

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	23
---	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936.

1.—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	11
2.—Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices ...	6
(a) By owners ...	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1.—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects remedied ...	15
2.—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	5
(a) By owners ...	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.—Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
2.—Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
1.—Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2.—Number of Separate Tenements in underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Housing Act, 1936, Part V. Overcrowding.							
(a) 1.—Number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
2.—No. of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
3.—Number of persons dwelling there in	...	...	...	...	...	...	712

NOTICES SERVED

Under the Housing Acts:

Number of Informal Notices Served	...	...	23
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	13
Number of Formal Notices served	...	...	11
Number of Formal Notices complied with	...	...	6

Under the Public Health Acts:

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	24
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	14
Number of Formal Notices served	...	...	5
Number of Formal Notices complied with	...	...	4

Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	Nil
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	Nil

Public Cleansing. — During the year the direct labour scheme was introduced, which immediately brought about an improvement in the regularity of the scavenging system. However, it has been obvious that one lorry is insufficient to cope with the work, and the limiting of weekly collections to 2 has imposed a great strain on the personnel and lorry. A small additional lorry would enable the district to be covered easily three times per week thus giving the public a more beneficial service. Since being put into operation on July 18th, the lorry has carried approximately 3,600 tons of refuse, an average of 150 tons per week.

Salvage.—The total amount of waste paper collected during the year was 14 tons, 4cwt., valued at £80. 2 tons 2cwts of bones was also salvaged valued at £12. The salvage col-

lection showed an improvement towards the end of the year and, in view of the crying need of the country for salvage, this improvement must not only be maintained but further improved during 1947.

Nuisances.—Nuisances were generally dealt with informally. 32 notices being served, but in 5 cases Statutory Notices had to be sent. Three of the latter were complied with, and work under the other 2 is at present being executed.

Disinfection.—26 houses were disinfected after cases of infectious diseases. The houses were both sprayed and fumigated and a free quantity of disinfectant given the occupiers for further use.

Disinfestation.—52 houses were disinfested, solutions containing D.D.T. being used in all cases. The results obtained were satisfactory and a charge was made to cover the cost of labour and material.

Milk Sampling.—A total number of 954 samples were taken from retailers and were sent for the Resasurin Test at the Brecon Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The results were as follows:

Category A. 707; Category B. 143; Category C. 104.

Compared with last year's results it has proved that regular sampling has improved the keeping quality of the milk in general the percentages of samples falling into the first grade this year being 77, compared with 58 percent the previous year. The percentage of samples failing to pass the test this year was 10 per cent. compared with 25 per cent. last year.

Sampling—Tuberculosis.—13 Samples were sent for the Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Test all of which were negative. One sample was found to contain Prucella Abortis and this was reported to the County Medical Officer of Health and to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Food and Drugs Act.—59 visits were made to butchers' shops, ice-cream premises, fried fish shops and other food stores. The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human food.

Cheese, 20½lbs..

Tinned Foods (assorted) 66.

Tinned Meat, 10.

Tinned Peas, 2.

Tinned Milk, 17.

Bacon, 33lbs.

Corned Mutton, 12lbs.

Dried Fruit, 270lbs.

Butter, 4½lbs.

Margarine, 4lbs.

Pudding Powders, 82.

Biscuits, 33lbs.

Samples of ice-cream from all local manufacturers were sent for bacteriological tests, the results being as follows:

Producer	Colony Count	Coliform Organisms
A	30,000	... plus $\frac{1}{1000}$ ml.
B	15,000	... plus $\frac{1}{1000}$ ml.
C	45,000	... plus $\frac{1}{1000}$ ml.
D	Millions	... plus $\frac{1}{1000}$ ml.
D	9,600	... plus 1 ml.
E	Over 8,000,000	... plus $\frac{1}{1000}$ ml.
E	Plate covered	..... absent.
F	287	... plus $\frac{1}{1000}$ ml.
G	millions	... plus $\frac{1}{1000}$ ml.
H	128,000	... plus $\frac{1}{1000}$ ml.

WATER SUPPLY

14 samples were sent for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows.

Date	Water Supply	Result
3/1/46	... Nantmarl	... Highly Satisfactory
25/3/46	... Lion	... Satisfactory
22/6/46	... Colbren	... Un-satisfactory
22/6/46	... Garwleisiau	... Un-satisfactory
29/7/46	... Lion	... Un-satisfactory
29/7/46	... Colbren	... Suspicious
12/9/46	... Colbren	... Satisfactory
12/9/46	... Garwleisiau	... Un-satisfactory
5/11/46	... Nantmarl	... Highly Satisfactory
5/11/46	... Lion	... Highly Satisfactory
5/11/46	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Suspicious
27/11/46	... Garwleisiau	... Highly Satisfactory
27/11/46	... Penwyllt	... Suspicious
21/12/46	... Ffrydiau Twrch	... Satisfactory

RODENT CONTROL

A full time rodent operator was employed throughout the year and work was carried out at refuse tips, sewers, rivers, shops and private dwellings. In the last week of the year N.S. 12 was adopted and 3 temporary operators were employed. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out by the permanent operator during the year.

		Points Laid		Estimated Killed		Bodies Found
Sewers	...	432	...	65	...	18
Private Premises	...	445	...	754	...	231
River Banks	...	225	...	162	...	185
Refuse Tips	...	85	...	118	...	43
Totals	...	1187	...	1099	...	477

RAINFALL

Rainfall figures taken at the County School, Ystradgynlais for which I am indebted to Mr. D. H. Griffiths, B.A.

January	6.09
February	6.40
March	1.76
April	1.66
May	3.42
June	7.04
July	5.58
August	15.00
September	11.49
October	1.72
November	12.24
December	7.49

Total for the year: 79.89 ins.

I am gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,

Sanitary Inspector.



